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Birds of the Cazadero Region

In the November, 1926, issue of "The Gull" appears a list of birds, compiled by Harold E. Hanson, which were observed at the Scout Camp near Cazadero and in the adjacent territory as far as Duncan Mills, Sonoma County.

In the May, 1930, issue, Emile R. Jacob gives a further list observed at Watson Station, near Cazadero, bringing the total of species for the region to seventy four.

During the month of June, 1934, Mr. Stephens and I spent two weeks in this same vicinity. At Jenner-by-the-Sea, which is only a short distance from Duncan Mills, we observed Western Grebes; Brown Pelicans; Farallon and Baird Cormorants; White-winged and Surf Scoters; Western Gulls; Rough-winged Swallows and Savannah Sparrows.

A Mallard and young were found on Austin Creek; California Gulls and Cliff Swallows on Russian River.

A short distance above the Scout Camp on the way to Cazadero we heard shrill notes and stopped to investigate. High above us circled five Ospreys, four adults and one immature. Thinking that there might be an Osprey's nest in the vicinity, we took note of all probable locations and, surely enough! from a point only a few paces beyond our parked car we saw a nest on top of a dead redwood stump up a steep mountain side. And better still, it contained two pretty well feathered young ones flapping their wings and crying lustily, no doubt in protest against the pangs of hunger and the intense rays of a scorching sun from which they had no protection. Several times we witnessed the old birds come to the nest and feed them.

The Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Shrike, Cassin and Warbling Vireos, Purple Finch and Olive-sided Flycatcher being observed here also make the total list for this region ninety-four.

Laura A. Stephens (Mrs. Albert B.), San Francisco, California.



Birding at Home

On several occasions members have reported the birds found in their own gardens. Keeping such a record is both interesting and instructive. Robert Taylor reported the birds noted in his yard throughout the year, the list of which was published in "The Gull" of April, 1933.

Mrs. H. A. Thomas decided to see how many species she could find in her garden in Los Gatos. The following thirty species and 117+ individuals were recorded by her in one single day, May 20, 1934. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were reported as nesting.

Red-tailed Hawk 2; Sparrow Hawk 3; *California Quail 7; Anna Hummingbird 1; *Allen Hummingbird 2; Red-shafted Flicker 1; California Woodpecker 1;

Downy Woodpecker 1; *Ash-throated Flycatcher 2; *Western Flycatcher 2; Wood Pewee 1; Olive-sided Flycatcher 1; Violet-green Swallow 7; California Jay 5; Chestnut-backed Chickadee 5; *Plain Titmouse 8; Bush-tit 20+; Wren-tit 1; *House Wren 2; *Thrasher 2; Western Bluebird 2; *Lutescent Warbler 5; Meadowlark 2; Black-headed Grosbeak 2; *House Finch 15; *Green-backed Goldfinch 3; *Lawrence Goldfinch 6; *Spotted Towhee 4; *Brown Towhee 4; Point Pinos Junco 5.



Birds Near Hilmar, Merced County

The following list of birds noted in the vicinity of the Merced River near Hilmar, Merced County, on October 22, 1933, is not a long one, but the number of individuals of each species was notable. The trees along the river were mainly box-elder, valley oak, ash and willows. It was distressing to find the English Sparrow everywhere in the country, quite removed from the vicinity of any houses. One gets used to seeing the little wretches drive away native species from the dooryard, but it was doubly disagreeable to see a male sparrow drive a female Nuttall Woodpecker from one part of a willow tree to another until the larger bird gave up and left.

Brandt Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks; Quail; Killdeer; Mourning Dove; Anna Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; California and Nuttall Woodpeckers; Black Phoebe; Horned Lark; California Jay; Yellow-billed Magpie; Crow; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Vigors Wren; Mockingbird; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Shrike; Audubon Warbler; Meadowlark; Brewer Blackbird; English Sparrow; House Finch; Green-backed Goldfinch; Spotted Towhee; Savannah, Golden-crowned, Lark and Gambel Sparrows.

Mrs. C. Norman Compton, Berkeley, California.



Three Say Phoebe Nests

Upon entering a short exploratory drift in the Dinosaur National Monument, Utah, I flushed a Say Phoebe. The nest built of twigs, grass, strings, pieces of gunny sack and a little mud was placed on a rock shelf above the floor and ten feet inside the tunnel, and contained four eggs.

At Vernal, Utah, I heard a Say Phoebe in the top of a very high cottonwood tree. This seemed to be a rather unnatural hunting position for this bird. I thought I might be mistaken so asked permission to enter the property. I had just reached the tree when the bird obligingly descended to a normal place on the fence, where it soon captured an insect and flew into a porch of a nearby newly constructed frame house. Here I found the nest built on an electric light meter which was placed on the front of the house about six feet above the porch floor.

At Delta, Colorado, a pair of Say Phoebes were nesting in my brother-in-law's root house May, 1931. They have nested either in the root house or brooder house for seven or eight seasons. Last year the nest was destroyed presumably by a cat and one or both birds were probably killed as they were not seen again about the place and did not return in 1933.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Unusual Nesting Sites

A Red-winged Blackbird preferred a nest in short salt grass to her usual habitat, tules and cattails. The nest contained four young.

Near this nest I found also two Coots' nests. They were the usual platform of tules and other marsh vegetation, but rising twelve to fifteen inches above the ground, consequently above all surrounding vegetation, and a few feet from water.

This departure from their customary sites in the hundreds of acres of nearby marshes is the more pronounced since it necessitated carrying nesting material from their old natural habitat a few hundred feet away to the new location.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah. October 15, 1933.



George M. Wright has been named head of the Division of Wild Life in the National Park Service. For three years previous to his appointment he served without salary or expenses in making a study of the wild life resources of the National Parks. This resulted in the 157-page report, "Fauna of the National Parks of the United States," published in 1933, of which Mr. Wright was co-author with Joseph S. Dixon and Ben H. Thompson.

After graduating in forestry from the University of California, he accompanied Joseph S. Dixon on the Harvard expedition to the Mount McKinley National Park in Alaska, where they were the first to discover the nests and eggs of the surf bird. Later he was appointed Junior Park Naturalist in the Yosemite National Park, from which he resigned in 1930 to undertake his National Parks studies. His present headquarters are in the western office of the National Park Service at Berkeley, California.



Alameda and Bay Farm Island Trip

The September Field Trip was taken to Alameda and Bay Farm Island on Sunday, the 16th, under the leadership of Mrs. G. Earle Kelly. An ideal day brought out the following seventeen members and five guests: Messrs. and Mesdames Bunker, Myer and Stephens; Mesdames Kelly and Thomas; Misses Berg, Danz, Paroni, Pringle and Sterné; Messrs. Bolander, Bryant, Chase, Power and Taylor; Scouts Gerwick, Howard, Sevilla and Switzer.

A list of thirty-seven species was recorded for the day, as follows:

Western Grebe	Marbled Godwit	Pipit
California Heron	Sanderling	Shrike
Pintail	Western Gull	Yellow Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	California Gull	Audubon Warbler
Clapper Rail	Ring-billed Gull	Meadowlark
Snowy Plover	Bonaparte Gull	Brewer Blackbird
Killdeer	Forster Tern	English Sparrow
Black-bellied Plover	Caspian Tern	House Finch
Willet	Anna Hummingbird	Green-backed Goldfinch
Least Sandpiper	Black Phoebe	Spotted Towhee
Baird Sandpiper	Horned Lark	Bryant Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Robin	Song Sparrow
Western Sandpiper		

After leaving Alameda, the group motored into Oakland and stopped at Lake Merritt, where sixteen species were observed, as follows:

Eared Grebe	Pintail	American Coot
Pied-billed Grebe	Green-winged Teal	Glaucous-winged Gull
Black-crowned Night Heron	Canvas-back Duck	Western Gull
Mallard	Lesser Scaup	California Gull
Baldpate	Mourning Dove	Ring-billed Gull

At the lake a male Mandarin Duck was also observed.

Audubon Notes

October Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 11th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, whose subject will be "The Technique of Birding in Unfamiliar Territory."



October Field Trip will be on Sunday, the 14th, to Lake Merced. East Bay members may take either No. 12, Mission Street car marked "Ocean" or Municipal car K, transferring to No. 12 car at Sloat Boulevard, and getting off at entrance to Fleishhacker Playgrounds, where party will meet at 10 a. m. Bring luncheon. Leader, Joseph J. Webb.



September Meeting: The 206th regular meeting was held on September 13th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-three members and guests present. President Webb presiding.

Mr. Lester B. Power of San Francisco was elected to membership.

The following observations were reported:

Gordon Bolander: September 12th, San Francisco, eleven Turkey Vultures and a flock of Cedar Waxwings.

Vincent Mowbray: San Mateo Bridge, August 16th, Caspian Tern; 20th, Black Turnstone; 21st, Wilson Phalarope 3; 23rd, Avocets 100+; September 5th, two Marsh Hawks; 7th, two Golden Eagles.

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter noted the following at San Mateo and Dumbarton Bridges: Aug. 31st, Egrets 14; Sept. 12th, Pintail 1000±; Aug. 16th, Black-bellied Plover 80+; Hudsonian

Curlew 4; Willet 600±; Knot 19; Long-billed Dowitcher 100+; Godwit 100+; Sept. 12th, Greater Yellow-leg 3; Avocet 400±; Aug. 31st, Forster Tern 5; Aug. 16th, Least Tern 8; Caspian Tern 11.

Carl Smith: September 12th, Veterans' Hospital, San Francisco, an immense flock of Violet-green Swallows.

Mrs. Stephens: August 11th, Lake Merced, Cowbird being fed by Yellowthroat; 19th, Atherton, Olive-sided Flycatcher feeding three young; 25th, Cliff House, Murre.

Gordon Bolander gave a very interesting talk on the birds he had seen in the Tomales Bay region. An enthusiastic bird student and a competent observer with the advantage of a summer home at Inverness Park, Gordon has seen just about all there is to see of birds in this portion of Marin County. We have all been to Point Reyes and Inverness at one time or another, but, I am sure, we now feel a renewed desire to return there some week-end.

* Past-President Brighton C. Cain added to the evening's entertainment by showing some new movies he had taken of birds. The greatest thrill, however, was a young Barn Owl "in person" which he brought in a large carton. Apparently unafraid of human beings, it permitted itself to be stroked and handled. It had been rescued when very young and in a weakened condition, but proper care and food soon made of it a strong and healthy owl. Due to the fact that it is so friendly and, if liberated, might alight on any stranger's shoulder or head, and be suspected of making a vicious attack, Mr. Cain is in doubt as to the advisability of turning it loose.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

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For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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